Testimony in Support of HB-6355, An Act Concerning Risk Protection Orders

Andrea Aron Madison, CT March 4,2021

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Andrea Aron, a resident of Madison, and a member of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I support HB-6355 because we need to strengthen our current Red Flag Law. Family members of people in crisis are denied access to the red flag process because they are unable to directly request an order from the court. Currently, only law enforcement can issue an ERPO, only after conducting an independent investigation.

Family members are the first ones to recognize dangerous warning signs of their distressed loved ones, and can help prevent suicides and homicides. I was a high school teacher for 44 years, and during that time there were a few incidents of students in distress or crisis bringing hidden weapons into school. Obviously, this was potentially a danger to all in the school community, and could possibly have been prevented by a stronger red flag process.

I ask that you favorably report HB-6355 out of committee so that the General Assembly can vote to strengthen our Extreme Risk Protection Law that can prevent firearm suicide and homicide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Andrea Aron Madison, CT